

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 00257 301328Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 /019 W
-----301334Z 116194 /46
R 301230Z AJAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5829

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0257

FOR AMBASSADOR PARKER FROM LYNE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BDIS, AG, US
SUBJECT: EDC CONTRACT PROBLEMS

REF: STATE 019190

1. CHRIS ROSS AND I SPENT JANUARY 26 AT BOUMERDES
DISCUSSING EDC PROBLEMS WITH PLASTICS INSTITUTE
PROGRAM DIRECTOR SISKOVIC AND WITH ELECTRONIC INSTITUTE
PROJECT DIRECTOR BAEZ.

2. PLASTICS INSTITUTE: SISKOVIC GAVE GENERAL RUNDOWN
OF SITUATION SIMILAR TO THAT YOU RECEIVED IN BOSTON
BUT HE WAS NOT ALARMED. HE INDICATED THAT IF WE COULD
URGE ACTION ON ABDESSELAM IT MIGHT BE USEFUL BUT THAT
PART OF DIFFICULTY LAY IN INTERNAL ALGERIAN BUREAUCRATIC
IN-FIGHTING. AT END OF DISCUSSION HE CONCLUDED THAT
INTERVENTION AT THIS STAGE MIGHT BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE
AND THAT WE COULD AFFORD TO WAIT UNTIL ABDESSELAM HAD
BEEN BACK AT HIS DESK A FEW DAYS FOLLOWING JUST ENDED
ELECTION TRIP.

3. ON 28 JANUARY EMBASSY RECEIVED FROM EDC BOSTON
COPY OF FOLLOWING TELEX DATED 27 JANUARY FROM FARES
QUOTE: I AM INFORMING YOU THAT FORMALITIES OF CONTRACT
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SIGNATURE HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. COPY SIGNED AND
FORWARDED ON JANUARY 31, 1977. PAYMENTS MADE EARLY
FEBRUARY. UNQUOTE.

4. ON RECEIPT YOUR TELEGRAM WE TALKED WITH SISKOVIC
WHO ASKED THAT WE NOT REPEAT NOT INTERVEN LOCALLY AND

ALLOW CONFUSED TIMING OF FARES CABLE TO WORK ITSELF
OUT. HE SATISFIED THAT FARES CABLE MEANS PROBLEM
RESOLVED.

5. ELECONTRICS INSTITUTE: BAEZ RECOUNTED USUAL STORY
OF ARREARS BUT STATED THAT AGREEMENT HAS BEEN WORKED
OUT WHICH PROVIDES FOR MINISTRY PAYMENT OF PRO FORMA
INVOICES IN ORDER TO GIVE EDC FINANCIAL OPERATING ROOM.
IN RESPONSE MY SPECIFIC QUESTION AS TO WHAT HE WANTED
EMBASSY TO DO, HE REPLIED "NOTHING NOW", INDICATING
THAT HE WOULD LET US KNOW IF HE NEEDED US LATER.

6. COMMENT: SISKOVIC REFERRED TO NEED TO "FEND OFF
ALARMISTS IN BOSTON" IN ADVISING US TO TAKE NO IMMEDIATE
ACTION LOCALLY. UNLESS YOU BELIEVE OTHERWISE, I WILL
NOT ATTEMPT INTERVENE WITH MOURAD CASTEL AT THIS TIME.
SISKOVIC PROMISED HE WOULD BE IN CONTINUING TOUCH WITH
US, ESPECIALLY AFTER PASSAGE OF ARES' TARGET DATES, BUT
EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THINGS WERE IN ORDER.LYNE
BT
#0257

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONTRACTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ALGIER00257
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770033-0453
Format: TEL
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770188/aaaafosi.tel
Line Count: 93
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 52eae4dd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 19190
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3676232
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 970826
Subject: EDC CONTRACT PROBLEMS
TAGS: BDIS, AG, US, BDIS, EDC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/52eae4dd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009